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UNCLAS VIENNA 000697

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

DEPARTMENT FOR IO/T, IO/S, EUR/ERA AND EUR/AGS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [AORC](#) [ELAB](#) [KIPR](#) [IS](#) [AU](#) [WIPO](#) [ILO](#)

SUBJECT: ISRAEL'S MEMBERSHIP IN GROUPS AT WIPO, ILO, UNEP, UN-HABITAT AND CND: AUSTRIAN RESPONSE

REF: A) STATE 35846 B) BRUSSELS 850

This message is sensitive but unclassified.

1. (SBU) EconPolOff delivered ref a demarche on March 4 to Dr. Helmut Boeck, new deputy head of the Austrian MFA's International Organizations Bureau. He observed that some of these issues have been pending since his last stint in the UN Affairs Bureau seven years ago. Boeck told us that, to the best of his knowledge, EU member states were still split on this issue, but would seek to hammer out a common position. He found the timing of our demarche propitious, since he will be representing Austria at the CONUN meeting in Brussels on March 8 (ref b).

2. (SBU) We argued that the draft EU-Israel Action Plan's commitment to normalizing Israel's position in the UN, as well as recent signs of progress in the Middle East Peace Process, indicated that the time was right to act on Israeli participation in WEOG groups in Nairobi and Vienna, WIPO group B and ILO IMEC. Boeck seemed impressed by this, and promised to convey our points to other offices in MFA with specific responsibility for ILO, UNEP, UN-Habitat, CND and WIPO matters. (Note: Post is also providing courtesy copies of the demarche to those offices and will engage them.) We also requested a follow-up meeting with Boeck after his return from the CONUN session in Brussels.

Brown